
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PORTS AUTHORITY FOR AIRPORTS AND
HARBORS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is an island state that depends heavily
2 upon its harbors and airports for the movement of cargo and
3 persons between islands and to and from the rest of the world;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, with tourism as one of the prime industries of the
7 State, Hawaii's economic sustainability depends on the
8 effectiveness and efficiency of its airport system; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation is responsible
11 for the planning, design, construction, operation, and
12 maintenance of state facilities in all modes of transportation,
13 including air, water, and land; and

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15 WHEREAS, the economic well-being of the State depends, in
16 part, on the efficient use of its airports and harbors, which
17 will enhance and complement efforts to revitalize Hawaii's
18 economy, and coordinated planning and development of air and sea
19 transportation; and

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21 WHEREAS, the establishment of a Hawaii Ports Authority
22 having jurisdiction over airports and harbors in this State will
23 augment the State's efforts in achieving important statewide
24 objectives, including increased security for the State; improved
25 administrative efficiency of Hawaii's airports and harbors
26 systems; and improved coordination of environmental issues
27 affecting the State's airports and harbors, particularly
28 relating to alien invasive species; and

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30 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation, Airports
31 Division, currently provides, operates, and maintains eleven
32 commercial-service airports and four general-aviation airports,



1 with four of the five major airports serving domestic and
2 international carriers; and
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4 WHEREAS, airport improvements are funded from the passenger
5 facility charge special fund, established under section 261-5.5,
6 Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and harbor improvements are
7 funded from the harbor special fund, established under section
8 266-19, HRS; and
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10 WHEREAS, all airport revenues from landing fees, terminal
11 rentals, or airport concessions go into the airport revenue fund
12 from which all airport construction projects and operations and
13 maintenance are funded; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation, Harbors
16 Division, currently provides, operates, and maintains ten
17 commercial harbors located at Honolulu and Kalaeloa Barbers
18 Point on Oahu; Hilo and Kawaihae on Hawaii Island; Kahului,
19 Hana, Kaunakakai, and Kaunapali in Maui County; and Nawiliwili
20 and Port Allen on Kauai; and
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22 WHEREAS, all harbor revenues from rates, fees, fines, and
23 administrative penalties go into the harbors special fund, which
24 is used for the costs of operation, maintenance, and repair of
25 the statewide system of harbors, and other related things such
26 as construction, additions, expansions, and improvements; and
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28 WHEREAS, according to a 2010 fact sheet of the Ohio State
29 University, "Port authorities can be useful economic development
30 tools for local governments . . . They are usually self-
31 sustaining and often operate railroads, airports, or shipping
32 terminals. Local governments frequently establish port
33 authorities to promote or support economic development"; and
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35 WHEREAS, powers of a port authority typically include the
36 ability to:
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38 (1) Acquire real and personal property;
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40 (2) Own, lease, sell, and construct improvements to real
41 property;
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- 1 (3) Issue revenue bonds for port authority facilities;
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3 (4) Issue general obligation bonds for port authority
4 facilities and other permanent improvements;
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6 (5) Receive federal and state grants and loans and other
7 public funds; and
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9 (6) Operate transportation, recreation, governmental, or
10 cultural facilities, and set rates and charges for use
11 of port authority facilities; and
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13 WHEREAS, the current time required for approval and
14 implementation of projects at airports and harbors is excessive
15 due to stringent and lengthy appropriation, allotment, and
16 procurement processes; and
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18 WHEREAS, if granted an exemption by the Legislature, a port
19 authority could seek an exemption from procurement laws under
20 section 103D-102(c), HRS, which would streamline and expedite
21 its operations immensely; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,
25 that the Department of Transportation is urged to develop a plan
26 for the establishment of a port authority that has jurisdiction
27 over the management, construction, operations, and finances of
28 the State's airports and harbors; and
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30 Be IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
31 Transportation report to the Legislature no later than twenty
32 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016 on a
33 plan to establish a port authority, including any proposed
34 legislation; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Department of
38 Transportation.

